

GALLANT LISCUM FELL CRYING TO HIS MEN: "DON'T RETREAT, BOYS; KEEP ON FIRING!"

First Details of Slaughter of Ninth Regiment Told in Special Cable Despatch to The Evening World—Out of 426 Men 96 Officers and Men Were Killed or Wounded.

How Col. Liscum died at Tientsin, gallantly leading on his soldiers of the Ninth Regiment, is told FOR THE FIRST TIME in an exclusive despatch from The Evening World's correspondent in China, Frederick Palmer.

He led two battalions into battle, numbering in all 426 men, and out of these the losses were 96 officers and men, nearly one-quarter of the force.

The Ninth, through some blunder, marched into a cul de sac and were swept by a withering fire from the thousands of Chinese rifles.

"Don't retreat, boys," said Liscum as he fell. "Keep on firing. Get at them if you can." Then he died and was buried at Tongku with all the honors due to a soldier hero.

HOW THE HEROES OF THE NINTH FOUGHT!

(Copyright, 1900, by The Press Publishing Company, New York World.)
(Special Cable Despatch to The Evening World.)

BY FREDERICK PALMER.

CHEFOO, July 19, via Shanghai, July 21.—The attack on the native city of Tientsin on July 13 resulted in the narrowest escape from what seemed up to midnight would be a terrible disaster for the allies.

The Russians swinging north and the other allies south, at daybreak the Russians were to take the forts near the native city wall and the other allies the city itself.

Gen. Fukushima, the Japanese commander, promised that the Japanese engineers after three hours' shell fire from all guns would cross the bridge over the moat before the wall and, blowing up the great south gate, make a breach for the infantry to enter.

DEPENDENT ON JAPS.

When this depended everything. Gen. Fukushima had not scouted the bridge and in twenty-four hours had not scouted the ground over which the charge on the bridge had to be made.

The Chinese destroyed the bridge and flooded the land around it. The allies' shell fire in nowise subdued the Chinese rifle fire from the loopholed wall, which was thirty feet high with a most twenty feet in depth around it.

An outer wall of mud made it impossible for the infantry and marines coming on the field to reply to the Chinese fire. They lost fifty men in ten minutes, then rushed back from the mud wall which they had reached.

Gen. Doward, the British commander, hastened forward with a gunnery instead of an integral skirmish line.

ANGLO-SAXON BRIGADE.

The American marines and the Welsh Fusiliers together under command of Waller were on the extreme left. Then the British marines and the French advanced with the Japanese along the road toward the gate in the mud wall.

Doward's plan for the Americans to support the Japanese was not made clear to Col. Liscum, of the Ninth United States Infantry.

BLAMES BRAVE LISCUM.

Doward lays the blame for the blunder and sacrifice of life on Liscum, but Doward's chief of staff was heard to say when Liscum moved:

"Get in down the road anywhere, quickly."

Col. Liscum hurriedly led his men through the gate in an open order as possible.

They were immediately under fire. The staff saw them pass over the bridge leading to a field which proved to be a cul de sac.

UNDER TERRIBLE FIRE.

Under the two battalions of American, numbering 426 men, could see themselves they were subjected, from the fire from the loopholes in the wall, to a fierce fire from the Chinese in a line of fortified mud wall on their flank.

Thousands of rifles probably pointed on them with an accuracy which has amazed every officer among the allies.

The blue shirts of the American troops made them distinct marks where the khaki uniforms of the other allies could not be seen. Col. Liscum, guiding his men, walked up and down the line, not even ducking his head while the bullets fell around.

A GALLANT CHARGE.

The Americans charged into the flank fire with rushes. The ground over which they charged was marshy and lined with ditches.

It was evidently Col. Liscum's intention to rush the houses from which the flank fire was coming and thus get a position for flanking the wall.

At 12:30 the line had just reached the shore of the canal and thirty yards separated them from the houses when the colorbearer fell.

RESCUED THE COLORS.

Col. Liscum picked up the colors and stood looking around apparently for a ford.

"Better get down or they'll hit you," shouted Major Regan.

"I guess not," was Liscum's reply. The next instant a sharpshooter's bullet went through the brave Colonel's abdomen.

"I've got it," he said as he fell.

"Get at them if you can," the dying officer said, and added as his last words:

"Don't retreat boys, keep on firing."

Regan was hit immediately afterward.

A DAY OF TORTURE.

All day long the allies' line lay under any cover the men could find, running out of ammunition.

The July sun was beating down on them and they had nothing to drink but the salty marsh water.

Meanwhile the wounded came struggling and crawling through the gate in the mud wall. There was no order. They were sent anywhere without men to carry the litters.

The doctors were hit by the sharpshooters while trying to attend the wounded of the Ninth.

They could not attempt to carry off the wounded from the bloody field.

Major Regan, Capt. Bookmiller and Capt. Noyes were all hit twice.

Noyes, who was Adjutant, was hit in the arm before going into the field and then hit in the leg. He crawled back through the ditch with the water to his neck to report the situation to Col. Doward.

At 1 o'clock Gen. Fukushima reported in writing to Doward that the Japs were in the city.

I could see the loopholes blazing bullets and lydie shells. No infantry could charge in the face of this fire from 2 o'clock to 5.

Though acting conjointly, neither Doward nor Fukushima knew each other's whereabouts.

Under cover of the darkness the men of the Ninth crept back from their dangerous position bearing their wounded. They executed this movement with a loss of one man killed. The casualties were 91 men and five officers out of 426.

The marines lost thirty, including Capt. Davis, who was shot through the heart while talking to Col. Meade on the night of July 12.

It was decided to withdraw, when news came that the Chinese were evacuating.

RUSSIANS CHECKED.

The Russians were not so successful as hoped during the day, and the total loss of the allies was 700.

LOOTING OF TIENTSIN.

Soldiers of All Nations Except the Americans and Japanese Pillaged in All Directions.

TIENTSIN, July 15, via Chefoo, July 18 and Shanghai, July 21.—The day following the capture of the native city by the allied forces found the streets filled with looters.

Mobs of Chinese and soldiers of all nationalities broke open stores, ransacked houses and carried off property valued at millions of dollars. The standard native coin is worth 70 cents in American money.

Silk, fur, jewelry, bar silver and money were carried off by the pillagers. Native were leaders in the loot. They hired coolies with rickshaws and every conceivable conveyance to help carry away the treasure.

American and Japanese troops were the only ones to make concerted moves to stop the wholesale robbery. The Japanese troops showed commendable restraint.

Organized squads of marines under officers were sent in from the British men-of-war *Barbette*, *Endymion*, and *Orlando* to guard the official Chinese treasury, which was known to amount to 2,000,000 taels. It was located in two treasuries. One location was mistakenly guarded and most of the treasure had disappeared before the error was discovered.

Officers of the 8th Regiment had organized parties gathering up the loot in the civilian quarters and carting it to the British warships.

Gen. Doward, the British commander, says the property seized officially will amount to over 1,000,000 taels. It will be divided up among the soldiers. Other reports say it will be sent to the War Secretary and held subject to the disposition of the powers interested.

The pawnshops were regarded with special favor by the looters. Street fights and murders were common among them and the burning of the city grew out of the revenge and jealousy of the pillagers.

FRANCE'S DEMANDS.

Only Warlike Measures Until Peking Gives Up Ministers and Tiansin is Punished.

PARIS, July 21.—At the Council of Ministers today the Minister of Foreign Affairs read a telegram from the Emperor of China asking the mediation of France with the foreign powers. The telegram was signed by Kwang-Su, and not by Pu-Chan, the son of Prince Tuan.

The reply given by M. Delcasse was that the request would be considered only upon absolute knowledge that the following facts had been accomplished:

First—That effective protection and absolute freedom of communication had been assured between the French Minister at Peking and his colleagues of the Diplomatic Corps and their respective governments.

Second—When Prince Tuan and the high functionaries responsible for the actual events had been dismissed by the Government, to await inevitable punishment.

Third—When the authorities and bodies of troops throughout the entire

country shall have received an order to cease hostilities against foreigners.

Four—When measures have been taken for the rigorous repression of the "Boxers" so long as these necessary guarantees are not furnished there is room only for military action.

M. Delcasse notified the Cabinet that all the powers had responded favorably to the proposition to prevent the exportation of arms to China.

An edict dated Peking, July 18, was transmitted by the Viceroy of Nanking under date of to-day, and is as follows:

IS ENVOY CONGER SAFE IN THE BIG TUNNEL IN PEKING?

Strange Information Received by Dr. Ellis, of Washington, Arouses State Department—Subterranean Passage from British Embassy to Imperial Palace a Hiding Place.

(Special to The Evening World.)
WASHINGTON, July 21.—It is claimed in army circles here that Minister Conger and the other envoys are safe in the Chinese Imperial Palace at Peking.

Gen. Leonard Wood, who is a brother-in-law of Miss Alice Condit-Smith, supposed to be with our Minister in China, to-day explained that it was a well-known fact in army circles abroad that the British Embassy at Peking is connected with the Imperial Palace by means of an underground passage, and that this knowledge is a source of consolation among those familiar with the fact at this time of grave uncertainty and dread.

It is believed that the taking refuge of the Americans and European officials in the British Embassy at the time of imminent danger was with a full knowledge of the fact of the underground passage.

Should such be true, it is argued by some that it would account for the silence of the little colony of Christians when the civilized world is mourning their supposed tragic fate, since to communicate with the outside world would betray their place of hiding to the Boxers.

While the communication from Minister Conger, as received through Chinese sources, is still a mystery, it develops that messages are being brought from Peking in a still more mysterious manner.

Dr. J. C. Ellis, a reputable physician of this city claims to be obtaining information from Peking concerning the legation through secret sources which he refuses to disclose.

When Dr. Ellis sent word to the Executive Mansion Wednesday that Conger was alive and safe but little attention was given to the communication. When word came yesterday from Conger direct Dr. Ellis was asked by the Executive Mansion authorities for

any additional news and for his source of information.

In reply Dr. Ellis informed Col. Montgomery that he had a message from Peking showing Conger and family to have been safe up to 6 o'clock yesterday morning.

"I told Col. Montgomery," said Dr. Ellis, "that I was not yet prepared to give my source of information, but that he could depend upon it as being absolutely trustworthy. I expect another message, and will take pains to inform the authorities and the public. I have had three messages thus far."

"But, doctor," he was asked, "how is it that you are able to have direct word from Peking when telegraphic communication is supposed to be cut off?"

"That will all be explained in time," he replied.

"All that I can say now is that my informant is an American lady residing in Peking. You may call her a spy if you want."

"Are you a Spiritualist?" was asked.

"No, sir. There is too much of the material about me to be a Spiritualist. Nor do I take much stock in mental telepathy, and wireless telegraphy seems to have been a failure. At the proper time you will find that my sources of information are genuine and trustworthy."

"The cipher message received at the State Department yesterday morning I regard as a confirmation of what I received privately, and after learning of the receipt of a despatch from Minister Conger yesterday morning I telephoned the State Department, calling attention to my previous statements."

Dr. Ellis persisted that he knew positively that Minister Conger and the other envoys were absolutely safe up to 4 o'clock yesterday morning. He said further that the Americans and other foreigners had escaped by the subterranean passage and were under the protection of the Empress Dowager, who he believed the Americans people to know that she was powerless to prevent the revolution in Peking, but that she would protect the foreigners at all hazards.

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BRITISH ADVISER RUSHING TO CHINA.

Sir Walter Hillier, Shown the Conger Cable, Regards It as Good News, and Outlines the Probable Campaign in Taking Peking.

Sir Walter Hillier, K. C. M. G., recently appointed political adviser to Sir Archibald Gaselee, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in China, arrived this morning on the steamship *Lancania*. He is on his way to join his chief and will not waste an hour on his journey. He started at once for Vancouver, where a steamer will take him to Japan. He will join Sir Alfred there.

Sir Walter Hillier is about fifty years old, tall, with the sunburned appearance of the Englishman who has spent many years in the Orient. He is very democratic in manner, wore a brown tweed suit, Alpine hat and carried as his only luggage a Gladstone bag. Sir Walter told his mission in detail to The Evening World on his arrival.

Dictated by Sir Walter Hillier, K. C. M. G., to a reporter of The Evening World.

"I have been appointed political officer to go with the Commander-in-Chief, because, as I understood it, I know the country thoroughly and speak the Chinese language. Most of my thirty years of diplomatic experience have been spent in the Orient. The appointment was a sudden one. I had only a few hours to make ready for the journey."

"I was sixteen years in Peking as Oriental secretary to the British legation, and attached to the Chinese diplomatic service for some years beside."

"The despatches kindly sent to me at Quarantine by The Evening World, informing me of the safety of Minister Conger in Peking, is the most hopeful news that has come from there."

"I would not trust any news coming from Chinese sources. Like all Asiatics, they are inclined to deceive when it is to their interests to do so. It would be to their advantage in this case, but I do not think they could have gone to such lengths in their deception as to use your State Department's cipher code."

Hardly think it would be possible for them to use it, even if the book was in their possession.

"When the American Legation was burned it is very unlikely the Chinese thought of securing the code-book, and it was probably destroyed with the building."

"The despatches also show that 42,000 men are between Tientsin and Taku, and that Secretary Hay has sent orders that they be hurried to the relief of Peking. I cannot tell now whether or not this force will be sufficient. It might have been some years ago, but the Chinese have surprised and puzzled me. I never expected they would make the stand they have at Tientsin."

"Obviously the first thing to be done is to clear out the rebels around Tientsin completely. That will be the base of operations. The difficulty now is one of transport. The Peho River is only navigable for vessels of the lightest draught, and the roads at this time of the year are masses of mud and almost impassable for heavy guns. However, the excellent thoroughbred China may shake. It seems to me too great a task to be transmitted by the Viceroy of Nanking under date of to-day, and is as follows:

"A month past, with the exception of the German Minister, who was assassinated by rebels who are under apprehension of severe punishment, we have ordered all other foreign ministers well protected by the Court, and happily they are safe and sound."

Emire shall have received an order to cease hostilities against foreigners. Four When measures have been taken for the rigorous repression of the "Boxers" so long as these necessary guarantees are not furnished there is room only for military action.

M. Delcasse notified the Cabinet that all the powers had responded favorably to the proposition to prevent the exportation of arms to China.

An edict dated Peking, July 18, was transmitted by the Viceroy of Nanking under date of to-day, and is as follows:

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EARL LI WILL NOW BE SEIZED ON TRANSPORT BY BRITISH.

SHANGHAI, Friday, July 20 (delayed).—The British cruiser *Bonaventure* left Woo Sung early this morning. It is reported, to seize the Au Ping with Li Hung Chang on board.

A triumphal arch erected in Li Hung Chang's honor has been ordered by the Council to be removed.

The eyes of the entire world are focused today on Li Hung Chang—a Chinaman!

Many times in the past the world has watched the advent with great interest, but never as today.

The Christian nations look to him to save China from herself.

There is no one else to look to, and it cannot be said that the gaze directed on him is one of confidence.

Li Hung Chang is the most powerful man in China today. His official title is Viceroy of the Viceroy. He has long been called "the Bismarck of China" and "the Grand Old Man of Asia."

He is seventy-seven years old, but vigorous and in full possession of his mental powers.

STARTED FOR PEKING.

Li Hung Chang has left Canton for Peking. This is why his progress is the most important event in the world at this time. According to reports from China, he was asked by the Emperor to undertake the journey and refused. Then he was compelled to go by an imperial edict.

If the Chinese Government is sincere in suppressing Prince Tuan and the murderous Boxers, the Emperor and the Dowager Empress are said to regard him as the only man who can possibly bring peace out of chaos.

But the intentions and possible intrigues of Li are not looked upon with complacency by the powers. They fear

Li may be contemplating joining forces with Prince Tuan. He is a man of many sides.

Racially he should have no sympathy with the leader who is said to have slaughtered the foreign diplomats and their families and attendants in Peking. Li is a Chinese. Prince Tuan is a Manchurian. Therefore they should be the bitterest of enemies.

MAY PROVE FALSE.

But keen observers of affairs in the Far East fear they are not. Time alone will determine whether or not Li means to keep faith with the nations and save China from dissolution.

Li Hung Chang is the best known Chinaman in the world. Not only a politician, but a statesman, he has been everywhere, and seen by millions of persons.

He visited New York in September, 1895, and was given a reception befitting his rank.